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COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH
THE HOST COUNTRY

LETTER DATED 27 AUGUST 1992 FROM THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY

The United States has made its views known to the United Nations Legal Counsel with regard to the application for a visa made by Manouchehr Mottaki. These views are as follows:

The United States recognizes its obligations under sections 11, 12 and 13 of the Headquarters Agreement to permit transit to the Headquarters district and to issue visas as promptly as possible irrespective of the relations existing between the United States Government and the visa applicant.

As a practical matter, reviewing visa requests from persons with questionable backgrounds takes time and there will be instances in which it will take a full 15 working days to complete the process. The intention of the United States, however, is to not exceed the 15-working-day limit.

In those cases in which there is an unusually large delegation from a country which has attempted in the past to send representatives who were coming for purposes outside the scope of United Nations business, it may not be possible to meet the deadline. The Iranian Mission to the United Nations requested facilitation of visas for over 100 persons to attend the United Nations General Assembly last fall. A request for such a large delegation creates a duplicitous appearance, especially when the request includes the names of several individuals who have been denied entry on previous occasions.

I would be grateful if you would have these views circulated as a document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

(Signed) Alexander F. WATSON
Ambassador
Deputy Representative

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